

## ABSTRACT

In estimating the performance of an integrated circuit, provided are RTL description inputting means for  
5 inputting an RTL logic description and creating the correspondence of a substitution portion with respect to each of signals; invariable attribute setting means for setting an invariable attribute with respect to a signal whose correspondence has been created; partial circuit  
10 synthesizing means for logically optimizing a partial circuit except for the signal having the invariable attribute; invariable part optimizing means for inserting a buffer in order to satisfy a design rule with respect to the signal having the invariable attribute; performance  
15 calculating means for calculating the performance of the integrated circuit; and display means for displaying the result of the performance calculation and the logic description. Thus, the performance can be estimated in consideration of a design restriction and a design rule and  
20 the kind of a device model, so as to specify a faulty portion from the viewpoint of the performance on the logic description.